REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 10 – 20 have been canceled. Claims 21-29 have been added.

Applicant affirms the election of claims 1 – 9 with traverse. Claims 1 – 9 generally relate to a data structure for providing a catalog from a manufacturer to a customer. Claims 10 – 13 generally relate to a data structure for acknowledging receipt of a catalog by a customer. Claims 14 – 18 relate to a data structure for providing an order from a customer to a manufacture using a catalog that includes custom systems. Accordingly, each of these claims sets relate to data structures relating to catalogs and should not be subject to restriction.

Regarding the examiner's comments about the information disclosure statement filed on February 22, 2001, the applicant notes that the information cited relate to pending U.S. patent applications and as such have not yet been published. See e.g., M.P.E.P. § 901.03

Claims 1 – 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended to include a limitation to "the data structure being stored on a computer readable media". Thus, the claims are clearly statutory. See, M.P.E.P. § 2106, specifically the discussion relating to data structures which sets forth "a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory"..

Claims 1 – 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to improve the clarity of the claims. Also, the examiner's attention is directed to page 7, line 13 – page 20, line 4, where the data structures are disclosed. More specifically, the examiner's attention is directed to page 8, line 6 – page 12, line 46, where the catalog data structure is specifically disclosed. See, for example, page 10, lines 17 – 18: "The Catalog header portion includes a number of data elements that apply to the entire Catalog"; page 10, lines 18 – 19: "The System ID record portion is system specific for each configuration identifier"; and page 10, lines 19 – 20: "The System Option Record portion includes all of the component information

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for a specific system". Regarding the examiner's comment about the "business rules elements", the examiner's attention is directed to the paragraph starting on page 10, line 23 in which the business rules elements of the present invention are specifically discussed.

Claims 1 – 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Spallone et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,959,686 (Spallone). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Additionally, applicant requests that the particular part of the reference relied on be designated and the pertinence of this reference be clearly explained for each rejected claim. See M.P.E.P. § 707(c)(2).

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a data structure for providing a catalog from a manufacturer to a customer where the data structure is stored on a computer readable media. The data structure includes a catalog header record portion, a system identification portion, and a system option record portion. The system identification portion includes a system type indicator which indicates whether a system is a bundled system or a custom system.

Spallone discloses an automated shopping order entry system. The order entry system includes a customer subsystem that allows a customer to select particular items and obtain an estimated waiting time based on an accumulated variable workload that depends on items ordered by the customer.
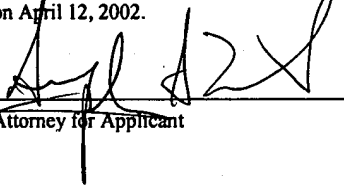
Spallone does not disclose or suggest, taken alone or in combination, a data structure for providing a catalog from a manufacturer to a customer where the data structure is stored on a computer readable media. Much less a data structure which includes a catalog header record portion; a system identification portion, and a system option record portion or where a system identification portion includes a system type indicator which indicates whether a system is a bundled system or a custom system, all as required by independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Spallone.

Claims 2 – 9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.
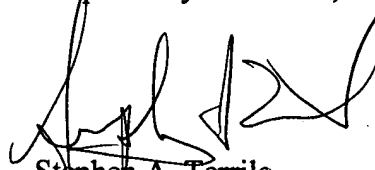
CONCLUSION

The claims and Specification have been amended to improve clarity. In addition, Figure 4 has been corrected in a separate response sent to the Official Draftsman. New claims 21--29 have been added.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 12, 2002.

_____   4/12/02
Attorney for Applicant   Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 32,946

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The following is a "Marked Up" version of the entire set of claims showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the claims of Serial No. 09/592,741:

1.   (Amended) A data structure for providing a catalog from a manufacturer to a customer, the data structure being stored in a computer readable media, the data structure comprising:

a catalog header record portion;

a system identification portion, the system identification portion including a system type indicator, the system type indicator indicating whether a system is a bundled system or a custom system; and

a system option record portion.

2.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the catalog header portion applies to an entire catalog.

3.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the system identification record portion includes a plurality of business rule elements that apply to a particular system.

4.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 3 wherein the plurality of business rule elements include a system identification element, the system identification element providing a manufacture assigned unique identifier.

5.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 3 wherein the plurality of business rule elements include a system identification effective date element, the system identification effective data element providing an effective date that a particular configuration is allowed to be purchased.

6.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 3 wherein the plurality of business rule elements include a system identification action element, the system identification action element programmably informing a customer what function to perform on a system.

7.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 6 wherein the functions to be performed include an add function, a replace function and a discontinue function.

8.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the system option portion includes a plurality of relationship indicator elements.

9.   (As Filed) The data structure of claim 8 wherein the plurality of relationship indicator elements include a relationship identification element, the relationship identification element providing an indicator that communicates for a component, a relationship of the component to other components.

Please cancel claims 10 – 20 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

21.   (New) A method for providing data structure for providing a catalog from a manufacturer to a customer comprising:
      storing a data structure for a catalog on a computer readable media, the data structure
            including a catalog header record portion, a system identification portion and a
            system option record portion;
      indicating via a system type indicator whether a system is a bundled system or a custom
            system.

22.   (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the catalog header portion applies to an entire catalog.

23.   (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising
providing the system identification record portion with a plurality of business rule
            elements that apply to a particular system.

24.   (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of business rule elements include a system identification element, the system identification element providing a manufacture assigned unique identifier.

25.   (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of business rule elements include a system identification effective date element, the system identification effective data element providing an effective date that a particular configuration is allowed to be purchased.

26.   (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of business rule elements include a system identification action element, the system identification action element programmably informing a customer what function to perform on a system.

27.   (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the functions to be performed include an add function, a replace function and a discontinue function.

28.   (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the system option portion includes a plurality of relationship indicator elements.

29.   (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the plurality of relationship indicator elements include a relationship identification element, the relationship identification element providing an indicator that communicates for a component, a relationship of the component to other components.

APPENDIX B

"Marked Up" paragraphs showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the specification of Serial No. 09/592,741:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [_____] 09/593,109 (attorney docket number [M-8809 US] DC-02441), filed on even date herewith, entitled "Data Structure for use in an Automatic Order Entry System" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, Joyce Sham, Reynaldo Ortega, Joy Fang and Emil Harsa, as inventors, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [_____] 09/593,110 (attorney docket number [M-8810 US] DC-02440), filed on even date herewith, entitled "A System and Method for an Automated Inventory Process" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, Joyce Sham, Reynaldo Ortega, Joy Fang and Emil Harsa, as inventors, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [_____] 09/593,112 (attorney docket number [M-8809 US] DC-02439), filed on even date herewith, entitled "An Automated Configuration Catalog" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, as inventor, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [_____] 09/592,739 (attorney docket number [M-9034 US] DC-02494), filed on even date herewith, entitled "Translator for Use in an Automatic Order Entry System" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, as inventor, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [_____] 09/593,727 (attorney docket number [M-9085 US] DC-02495), filed on even date herewith, entitled "A Customer-Hosted Automated Configuration Catalog" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, as inventor, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [_____] 09/593,590 (attorney docket number [M-9086 US] DC-02496), filed on even date herewith, entitled "A Translation System for Configuration Data" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, and Joy Fang, as inventors, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 10, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Catalog data structure 400 includes a number of portions as well as elements within these portions. More specifically, the Catalog data structure 400 includes a Catalog Header portion 410, a System ID record portion 412, a System Option Record portion 414, a Part record portion and a Trailer portion. The Catalog header portion includes a number of data elements that apply to the entire Catalog. The System ID record portion is system specific for each configuration identifier. The System Option Record portion includes all of the component information for a specific system. The Part Record portion includes the skew level details for a specific system. The Trailer portion allows for an application program to validate that all records for a configuration/product are complete.